

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TRSE-00 /134 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2264
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02665

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC
SUBJECT: UN REFORM: WESTERN FIVE DISCUSSION OF FM-LEVEL
UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

1. SUMMARY: AT WESTERN FIVE MEETING JUNE 20, IT WAS AGREED THAT CANADA AND/OR US WOULD APPROACH SYG ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF SPECIAL FOREIGN MINISTER-LEVEL CLOSED MEETING OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL IN AUTUMN (DURING EARLY PART OF UNGA WHEN MANY FMS IN NEW YORK IN AND EVENT) FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF ORAL REPORT THAT SYG WOULD MAKE ON MAJOR WORLD PROBLEMS IN RELATION TO ROLE OF SC. IF SYG AGREES, CANADA WOULD PROPOSE TO ALL SC MEMBERS INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS TO DISCUSS THIS IDEA LATER IN JULY, DURING CANADIAN SC PRESIDENCY. END SUMMARY.

2. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WESTERN FIVE MET JUNE 20 AT CANADIAN MISSION TO DISCUSS WAYS OF MAKING UNSC MORE EFFECTIVE. IN ADDITION TO PERMREPS (ACTING PERMREP LEONARD FOR US) AND OTHER MISSION OFFICERS, ALSO PRESENT
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WERE IO ASST SECY MAYNES AND, ON CANADIAN SIDE, EXTAFF UNDER SECRETARY A.E. GOTLIEB AND DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR UN AFFAIRS GEOFFREY PEARSON. PROMPTED IN PART BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S UN REFORM PROPOSALS, THE MEETING FOCUSSED ON TWO PARTICULAR MEANS FOR INVOLVING THE SC IN DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT SITUATIONS: PERIODIC MEETINGS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL AND INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AS A

MATTER OF ROUTINE ON A REGULAR AND RATHER FREQUENT BASIS
AMONG COUNCIL MEMBERS AT THE PERMREP LEVEL.

3. THE RELATIVE MERITS OF ATTEMPTING FIRST THE FM-LEVEL MEETING OR ONE AT THE PERMREP LEVEL WERE DEBATED AT SOME LENGTH, WITH ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES NOTED FOR EITHER APPROACH, AND IT BEING GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE TWO WERE IN MANY WAYS MUTUALLY REINFORCING. IT WAS FINALLY DECIDED, HOWEVER, THAT A FM-LEVEL MEETING WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO GIVE IMPETUS TO THE IDEA OF USING THE SC FOR INFORMAL, RATHER UNSTRUCTURED EXCHANGES OF VIEWS THAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND. MOREOVER, AN UNSUCCESSFUL FM MEETING WOULD NOT NECESSARILY PRECLUDE AN EFFORT AT THE LOWER LEVEL LATER ON. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT A "NEUTRAL" PRESENTATION BY THE SYG WOULD BE MORE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE THAN A PROPOSAL FOR DISCUSSION MADE BY AN SC MEMBER. MAYNES REPORTED THAT SYG WALDHEIM HAD RECENTLY INDICATED TO HIM A WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE AN ORAL REPORT AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION IN THE COUNCIL, PROVIDED IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PROCEEDINGS WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL AND THAT REPS WOULD ATTEND ALONE OR POSSIBLY WITH ONLY ONE AIDE. THE CONSENSUS WAS THAT A MORE CANDID AND INFORMAL EXCHANGE (AS OPPOSED TO SET SPEECHES) WAS MORE LIKELY TO RESULT IF ALL AIDES WERE EXCLUDED.

4. CERTAIN PROBLEMS WERE ANTICIPATED BUT WERE CONSIDERED
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NOT INSURMOUNTABLE. ONE WAS THE POSSIBLE RHETORICAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND THE SOVIETS, BUT IT WAS THOUGHT THAT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES THERE WOULD BE LITTLE INCENTIVE FOR EITHER TO INDULGE IN ACRIMONIOUS ATTACKS. THE PROBLEM OF MAINTAINING CONFIDENTIALITY WAS ALSO NOTED, IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT SOME OF THE NON-PERMANENT SC MEMBERS ARE LOOKED UPON AS REPRESENTING THEIR REGIONAL GROUPS AND MIGHT FEEL OBLIGED TO KEEP THESE GROUPS BRIEFED. A MEETING AT FM LEVEL WAS THOUGHT TO PRESENT SOMEWHAT LESS OF A PROBLEM IN THIS REGARD.

5. IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE ADVANCE CONSULTATION WITH THE SYG ON THE NATURE OF HIS REPORT, ESPECIALLY TO AVOID A DISCUSSION ONLY OF THOSE PROBLEMS ON WHICH SC ATTENTION IS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY FOCUSED: MIDDLE EAST, SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND CYPRUS. THE AIM WOULD BE FOR HIS REPORT TO HIGHLIGHT A LIMITED NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS TO WHICH UN ATTENTION HAS NOT BEEN DIRECTED AND TO RELATE THIS TO THE ROLE OF THE SC VIS-A-VIS WORLD PROBLEMS AND MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. THIS COULD RESULT IN FRUITFUL DISCUSSION OF HOW THE SC COULD BE MORE EFFECTIVELY USED, ESPECIALLY IN

PRE-CRISIS SITUATIONS. IT WAS EMPHASIZED BY ALL THAT THE DISCUSSION SHOULD NOT BE DESIGNED TO REACH A DECISION OR EVEN CONCLUSIONS, BUT RATHER TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FRANK EXCHANGES OF VIEWS AND DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE MINISTERS (SOMETHING AKIN TO THE FORMAT AND PATTERN OF DISCUSSION OF THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH MINISTERS MEETINGS). IF A CONSENSUS EMERGED THAT WOULD BE A BONUS, BUT IT WAS NOT THE AIM.

6. IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE WOULD NEED TO BE PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF A POSSIBLE FM-LEVEL MEETING BY THE PERMREPS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02665

AND THAT THE AIM SHOULD BE AN FM MEETING EARLY IN THE 33RD GA THIS FALL, WHEN MANY FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE IN NY IN ANY EVENT. SINCE CANADA WILL BE SC PRES IN JULY AND BOTH CANADA AND THE US HAVE HAD PREVIOUS TALKS WITH THE SYG ON THE GENERAL SUBJECT, IT WAS AGREED THAT EITHER CANADA OR THE US OR BOTH WOULD SEEK THE SYG'S VIEWS ON THIS PROPOSAL WITHIN A FEW DAYS (SINCE WALDHEIM WILL BE AWAY DURING PART OF JUNE AND JULY). IF HE AGREED TO THE PROPOSITION, CANADIAN AMB BARTON WOULD INVITE ALL SC MEMBERS TO INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS DURING WEEK OF JULY 25 (WHEN SYG WOULD HAVE RETURNED) TO DISCUSS THE IDEA. WHILE THE FIVE CONTEMPLATE THE FM-LEVEL MEETING LEADING TO ANOTHER IN SIX MONTHS OR A YEAR OR TO SIMILAR BUT MORE FREQUENT MEETINGS OF PERMREPS, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THIS WHOLE "PACKAGE" WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SELL ALL AT ONCE

AND THAT THE PROPOSAL TO OTHER SC MEMBERS AT THIS TIME
SHOULD REFER ONLY TO THE INITIAL MEETING OF FOREIGN
MINISTERS. DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSAL AMONG SC REPS WOULD
INEVITABLY LEAD, HOWEVER, TO SOME DISCUSSION OF OUR
MOTIVE OF TRYING TO MAKE THE COUNCIL MORE EFFECTIVE AND
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PERHAPS OF THE MEANS THROUGH WHICH THIS MIGHT BE
ACCOMPLISHED. LEONARD

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